

### **- Grant Supports Public Safety and Reduces \$\$ Burden on Local Taxpayers -**

Wappingers Falls, NY - U.S. Congressman John Hall (NY-19) announced today the awarding of a \$61,750 federal grant that he helped secure for the Village of Wappingers Falls Fire Department.

The grant will fund the replacement of 25 portable radios that will be used by all 42 firefighters in the department. These radios will allow firefighters to communicate with each other, and with other responding fire departments at the local and county levels.

The money comes from competitive grants being administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration for use in Operations and Safety Programs.

Without federal funding, the cost of the new equipment would have fallen on local taxpayers. With Rep. Hall's support, the district succeeded in earning this competitively awarded grant, preventing the need to raise taxes.

"I am pleased that the Wappingers Falls Fire Department received this important federal grant to upgrade their communications equipment," said Rep. Hall. "Firefighters provide a critical service to the residents of our communities, and being in the line of danger they should have radios that will help them do their jobs safely and to the fullest."

Congressman Hall arranged for grant writing workshops to help local fire departments learn how to apply for these federal grants, which lead directly to the Fire District's successful grant application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Matthew Alexander said, "We really appreciate Congressman John Hall's support for our village and the fire protection services for our residents." Wappingers Falls Fire Chief Joe Tarquinio said, "This is a great opportunity to better equip our firefighters and improve the safety and efficiency of our department."